GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3960
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2002
RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BY SOLAR ENERGY
P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage NGOs / companies who are interested in setting up projects for rural electrification with solar energy ;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal received in this regard;

(c) whether solar energy for electrification is taken up by the Government or Governmental bodies for rural electrification; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN)

(a), (b), (c)&(d): The Ministry has initiated a programme during 2001-02 for electrification of remote and difficult villages, which are difficult to be electrified by conventional grid-extension, through renewable energy technologies like solar photovoltaics (SPV), biomass gasifiers and small hydro power (SHP). A majority of these villages are likely to be electrified through solar energy. The programme provides for implementation through the state renewable energy development agencies, electricity boards, power departments, corporate entities set up by central or state governments, non-governmental organizations, panchayati raj institutions, co-operative societies and similar non-profit bodies. There is also a provision for giving a concession or licence for electrification of a village or a cluster of villages to a corporate body or entrepreneur, who will bring a part of the investment and operate the project on a commercial basis. In all cases, arrangements are required to be made for long term maintenance and servicing, as well as collection of monthly charges and other dues from the users.

During 2001-02, about 20 solar photovoltaic (SPV) cell and module manufacturers in the country expressed their interest to participate in the Ministry`s programme for electrification of remote and difficult villages. Some non-governmental organizations have also shown interest in implementing the village electrification programme. During 2001-02, the Ministry sanctioned many projects for electrification of villages through solar energy. These include 57 villages and 27 hamlets in Leh & Kargil Districts in Ladakh in Jammu & Kashmir, 64 villages and 4 hamlets in Uttaranchal, 14 villages in Uttar Pradesh, 16 villages in Tripura, 213 villages in West Bengal, 30 villages in Chattisgarh and 173 remote SC & ST colonies in Kerala. All these projects have been sanctioned to State agencies. In some States like Assam and Jammu & Kashmir the state agencies have involved some NGOs in implementation of the projects. The Ministry has already invited proposals from programme implementing organizations for taking up village electrification projects during 2002-03.